

REMARKS

The March 26, 2004 Office Action objects to the title for being non-descriptive, the drawings for informalities, the abstract for including legal phraseology, and claims 1-8 for informalities. Also, claims 1-5, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,107,963 to Hansen. Claim 6 is not rejected over the prior art and is therefore assumed to have allowable subject matter.

By the present amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-8 are amended and claims 9-13 are added leaving claims 1-13 pending in the application with claims 1, 8 and 10 being independent. Independent claim 1 is amended to correct typographical errors and the informalities noted in the Office Action, and amended to clarify that the connector includes a first connector with first contact elements and a second connector with both second contact elements and a guide means. The amendments to independent claim 8 and dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-7 correct typographical errors and the informalities noted in the Office Action.

The rejection over Hansen is respectfully traversed since Hansen fails to disclose, teach or suggest a connector or connector system with first and second connectors each with contact elements and the second connector also having guide means, as recited in the claimed invention.

Specification

The title is objected to as being non-descriptive. In response, the title is amended to "Connector With Misalignment Compensation." Also, the abstract is objected to for use of terms such as "means" and "said." In response, the abstract is amended to eliminate any legal phraseology. A replacement abstract is provided on a separate sheet.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the lines and numerals are not clear and sharp, and because Fig. 1 should be labeled as "Prior Art." In response, a Submission of Replacement Drawings Sheets is filed herewith submitting corrected drawing figures.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-8 are objected to for a number of informalities. In response, claims 1-3 and 5-8 are amended to correct the informalities and also to correct typographical errors.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-5, and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,107,963 to Hansen. However, Hansen fails to disclose, teach or suggest a connector or connector system with first and second connectors each with contact elements and the second connector also having guide means, as recited in the claimed invention.

Hansen discloses an electrical socket (first connector) that includes an insulative body with tapered recesses formed therein that include holes 20 adapted to receive prongs or contacts of a transistor (second connector) which connect with contacts 21 of the socket. Nothing in Hansen discloses or suggests that the transistor has a guide means, such as pins, in addition to the contact prongs. In contrast, both independent claims 1 and 8 recite that the second connector has both contact elements and guide means. Contrary to the suggestion in the Office Action, the prongs of the transistor of Hansen cannot be both the contact elements and the guide means of the claimed invention. Anticipation requires that every limitation of a claim must identically appear in the prior art reference. See *Gechter v. Davidson*, 43

U.S.P.Q.2d 1030, 1032 (Fed. Cir. 1997). It is clear that the limitation of a guide means does not identically appear in Hansen. Absence from the prior art reference of any claimed element negates anticipation See *Rowe v. Dror*, 42 U.S.P.Q.2d 1550, 1553 (Fed. Cir. 1997)

Therefore, because all of the claim limitations of independent claims 1 and 8 are not identically found in Hansen, these claims are allowable and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7 are also allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, these claims recite additional features that further distinguish them from the prior art. For example, claim 5 recites that the second insulating body includes a base portion from which a support section projects with a free end into one direction, defining abutment surfaces on the base portion and claim 7 recites that the base portion is provided with guide pin holes at diagonally opposite positions, with the guide holes extending in directions parallel to the direction of extension of the support section.

New Claims 9-12

New claim 9 depends from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons discussed above.

New independent claim 10 recites, among other elements, first and second connectors, each having contact elements, with the first connector having a catching area and the second connector having guide means separate from the contact elements which assure proper engagement between the connectors. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Hansen fails to disclose a second connector with both contact elements and a guide means. Instead, Hansen only discloses a second connector or transistor with contact elements that are prongs.

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Nothing in Hansen discloses or suggests a separate guide means provided with the transistor.

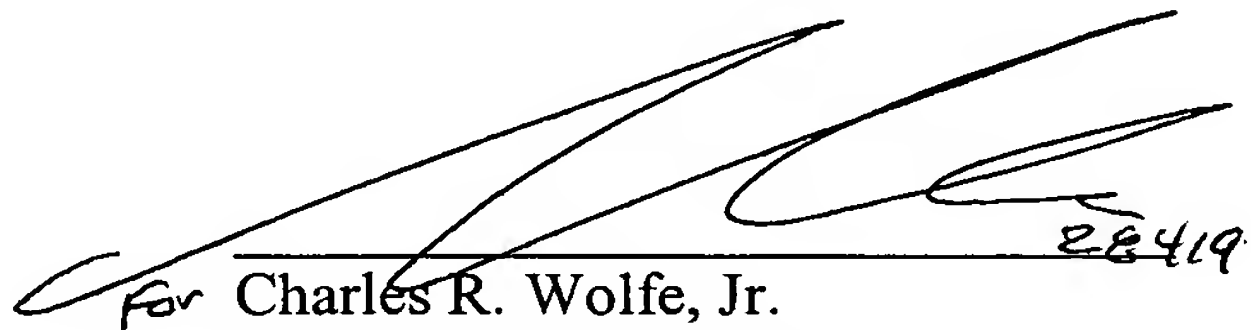
Thus, independent claim 10 is allowable over Hansen.

New claims 11-13 each depend from claim 10 and therefore are allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, those claims recite additional features not found in the prior art, including Hansen. For example, claim 12 recites that the first and second connectors are mounted on first and second supports, respectively, and that the first and second connectors are moveable with respect to the first and second supports. Also, claim 13 recites that the guide means are pins extending from the second connector.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-13 are believed to be in allowable condition.

Prompt and favorable action is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


For Charles R. Wolfe, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,680

BLANK ROME LLP
600 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 772-5800

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